

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 161036Z SEP 76 ZFF-6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

FOR AHERNE ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: AVIATION WEEK ARTICLE

1. PLEASE RETYPE, AND HAND DELIVER TO THE EDITOR OF AVIATION WEEK ASAP FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR SIR: I REFER TO YOUR RECENT ARTICLE, "HENRY'S SLANT." THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAS CHARACTERIZED IT AS AN "OUTRAGEOUS LIE." THIS IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

1. AVIATION WEEK CLAIM: THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTED THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO SLANT A VITAL US INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE AND THAT THE CIA LENT ITSELF TO THE PLAN.

THE FACTS: I NEVER DIRECTED, REQUESTED OR SUGGESTED THAT THE CIA, OR ANYONE, SLANT THAT INTELLIGENCE STUDY, OR ANY OTHER INTELLIGENCE STUDY. IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE:

-- WHEN THE STUDY WAS BEGUN, I KNEW ONLY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DIRECTED THE CIA TO KEEP BACKFIRE INTELLIGENCE UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

I DID NOT KNOW WHAT DATA WAS BEING USED. I DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS DOING THE STUDY. I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SHAPE ITS FINDINGS.

-- I TALKED TO NO ONE AT THE CIA, GEORGE BUSH INCLUDED, ABOUT THE STUDY.

-- I DID NOT KNOW THAT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS WAS DOING THE

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STUDY UNTIL AFTER IT WAS COMPLETED.

-- I DID NOT SEE ANY PART OF THE STUDY IN DRAFT NOR WAS  
I BRIEFED ON IT. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE FINISHED TEXT TO THIS DAY.

2. AVIATION WEEK CLAIM: THAT THE STORY THAT I WARPED THE  
INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM A "WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICIAL."

THE FACTS: ONLY TWO WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT THE STUDY. BOTH CATEGORICALLY DENY THE ALLEGATIONS IN YOUR  
ARTICLE. NEITHER HAS TALKED TO AN AVIATION WEEK REPORTER.  
I CHALLENGE YOU TO NAME YOUR SOURCE. IF YOU THOUGH IT IN THE  
NATIONAL INTEREST TO SPREAD THIS ANONYMOUS LIBEL ABOUT THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE, THE CIA AND ABOUT OUR SECURITY IN THE FIRST  
INSTANCE, THEN IT IS AT LEAST AS CLEARLY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST  
THAT THE PUBLIC BE ABLE TO JUDGE THE CREDIBILITY OF THAT SOURCE.

3. AVIATION WEEK CLAIM: THAT I HAVE "CONCEDED TO THE SOVIETS  
THAT THE BACKFIRE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE HEAVY BOMBER CATEGORY  
IN THE (STRATEGIC ARMS) NEGOTIATIONS AND IS MAKING SURE INTELLIGENCE  
ESTIMATES CONFIRM HIS POSITION...."

THE FACTS: NO AGREEMENT ON THE BACKFIRE HAS BEEN REACHED.  
NO "CONCESSION" AS YOU ALLEGE WITH REGARD TO THE BACKFIRE HAS BEEN  
MADE. NO PROPOSAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SOVIETS WHICH  
HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE NSC.

4. AVIATION WEEK CLAIM: THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION  
IS "PREPARING TO CONSUMMATE A TREATY BASED ON VLADIVOSTOK  
PERMITTING THE SOVIETS TO OPERATE THE BACKFIRE AS AN  
INTERMEDIATE-RANGE BOMBER AND THROUGH OTHER CONCESSIONS  
LIMITING THE US CRUISE MISSILES."

THE FACTS: THE US GOVERNMENT IS NEGOTIATING ON  
THE BASIS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD, BUT WE ARE FAR FROM  
"CONSUMMATING" AN AGREEMENT SUCH AS YOU DESCRIBE. THE  
BACKFIRE AND THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUES REMAIN OPEN.

IN SUM, YOUR ARTICLE IS MALICIOUS INVENTION, AS  
INSULTING TO OUR DEDICATED INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AS TO  
ITS INTENDED TARGET. THERE ARE LEGITIMATE INTELLECTUAL  
REASONS TO OPPOSE A FURTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT WITH  
THE SOVIET UNION. HONEST DIFFERENCE IS POSSIBLE; INFORMED  
DEBATE, INDEED, IS VITAL TO A SOUND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE ISSUE. BUT A NATIONAL JOURNAL HARDLY SERVES  
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THE CAUSE OF ENLIGHTENED DISCOURSE BY PEDDLING ANNONYMOUS LIES,  
PARTICULARLY ON A MATTER SO CENTRAL TO THE VERY SURVIVAL OF  
OUR NATION.

A RESPONSIBLE PUBLICATION WOULD HAVE SOUGHT TO VERIFY  
ITS CLAIMS BEFORE PRINTING THEM; YOU MADE NO SUCH ATTEMPT  
AND COULD NOT HAVE.

A RESPONSIBLE PUBLICATION WOULD PAUSE BEFORE  
ACCUSING THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF MANIPULATING

INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES AND THE CIA OF LENDING ITSELF  
TO SUCH A SCHEME; YOU DID NOT.

A RESPONSIBLE PUBLICATION WOULD PRINT A RETRACTION  
AND A FULL APOLOGY ONCE THE FACTS WERE KNOWN AND THE  
ERROR CLEAR. HENRY A. KISSINGER END TEXT  
KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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